

Brown Dwarf Disks: Possible Targets for TPF/Darwin?

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Recent infrared and millimeter wavelength observations demonstrated the existence of circumstellar disks around a dozen young brown dwarfs. Since brown dwarfs are among our closest neighbors, it is very interesting to investigate if such young disks can evolve into planetary disks. This can be achieved by gathering information on disk structure, composition and timescale evolution. I will review the main outcomes of observations of brown dwarf disks and our current knowledge of their properties, which has been obtained mainly from modeling their spectral energy distributions. I will also show that sensitive Spitzer spectroscopy allows us to inspect in detail the dust mineralogy of brown dwarf disks. Finally, I summarize which observations are needed to determine if young brown dwarf disks might evolve into planetary disks and be potential good targets for TPF/Darwin.

